

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIEP-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 TRSE-00 OPR-02 SY-04 NIC-01 EUR-25

AID-20 SCCT-02 OC-06 CCO-00 DRC-01 /159 W

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P R 081417Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 474

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 5066

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 9366

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PINT ET

SUBJ: THE CABINET AND THE AFCC

REF: ADDIS 9266 AND 9299

1. RADIO ETHIOPIA, IN ITS AMHARIC NEWSCAST OF 2000 HOURS LOCAL AUGUST 7, ANNOUNCED THE FORMATION OF A COMMITTEE OF COORDINATION (COMCO) TO FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF "ETHIOPIA FIRST" POLICIES. COMCO TO CONSIST OF FIVE MINISTERS AND SIX MEMBERS AFCC (UNIDENTIFIED). PAPERS AUGUST 8 SAY COMCO ESTABLISHED AUGUST 7. RADIO ALSO ANNOUNCED FORMATION FOUR CABINET COMMITTEES, RESPECTIVELY CHARGED WITH PROCESSING ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, ADMINISTRATIVE AND JURIDICAL QUESTIONS SO AS TO EXPEDITE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

2. COMMENT: AS YET WE KNOW NOTHING ABOUT COMCO, ITS MEMBERSHIP, POWERS, ETC. WE SUSPECT, HOWEVER, THAT COMCO IS INTENDED PRIMARILY AS A CONDUIT FOR CONVEYING PROPOSALS AND DESIRES OF CABINET AND AFCC TO EACH OTHER AND FOR NEGOTIATING AND SEEKING
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RECONCILE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THEM. INCLUSION OF SIC AFCC

MEMBERS IN THS GROUP OF ELEVEN MAY REFLECT DELIBERATE INTENT TO REMIND CABINET FREQUENTLY WHERE THE DECISIVE POER CENTER IS AT PRESENT.

3. WE NOTE PRESS ASSERTION THAT COMCO WAS ORGANIZED AUGUST5, PRIOR TO FULL FLOWERING OF MOST RECENT AFCC/CABINET CRISIS. NEVERTHELESS, IT WA OBVIOUSLY INTENDED TO PROVIDE WAY OUT OF GROWING DIFFICULTY INTO WHICH RECURRING AFCC/CABINET CONFRONTATIONS HAVE PLUNGED IEG. SOME RESOLUTION OF THAT CENTRAL ISSUE IS CLEARLY NECESSARY FOR RELIEF OF GOVERNMENTAL PARALYSIS WHICH NOW AFFLICTS IEG AND, ACCORDINGLY, FOR EFFECTIVENESS OF THE NEW CABINET COMMITTEES WHICH ARE INTENDED TO EXPEIDITE DECISIONS. WYMAN

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